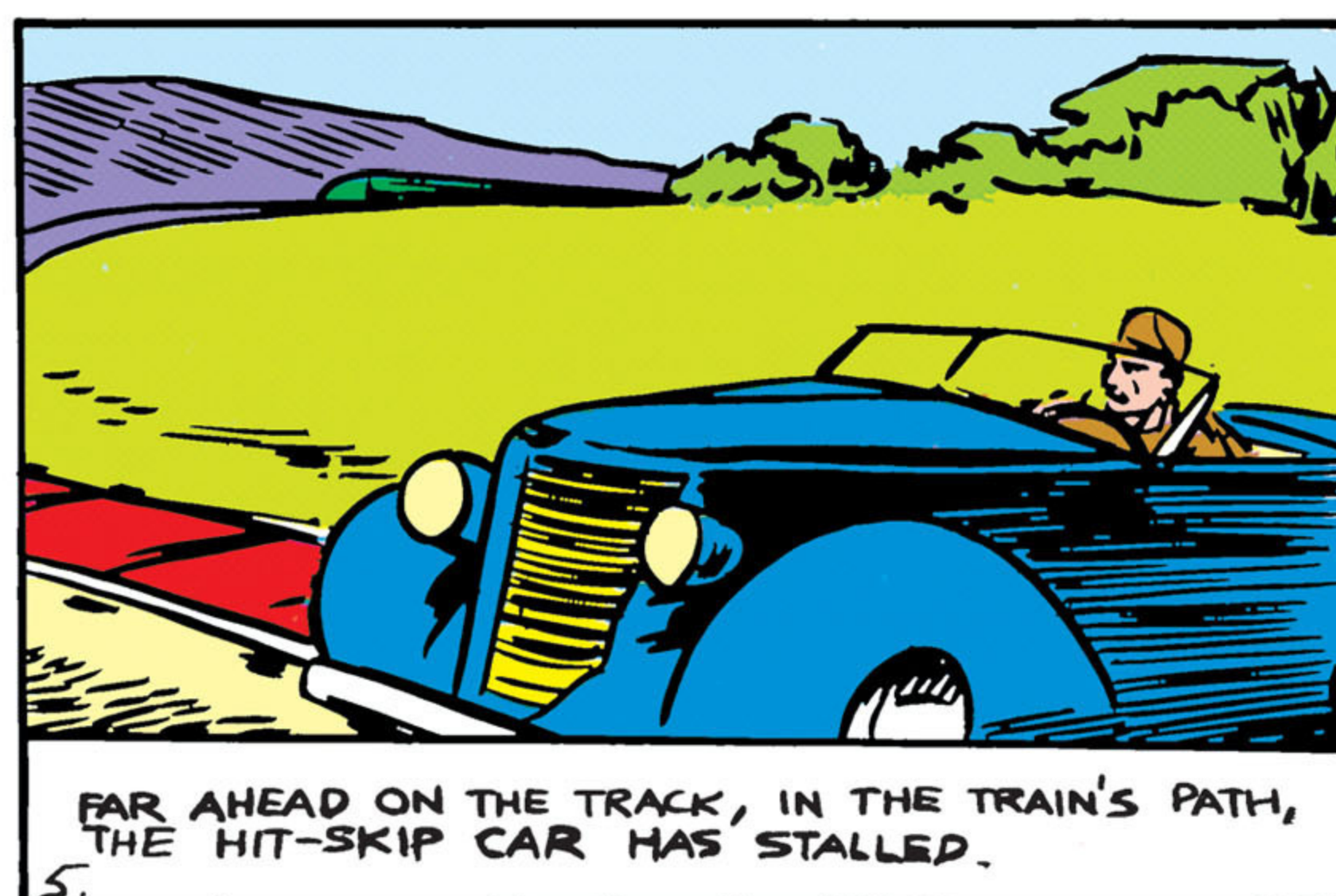
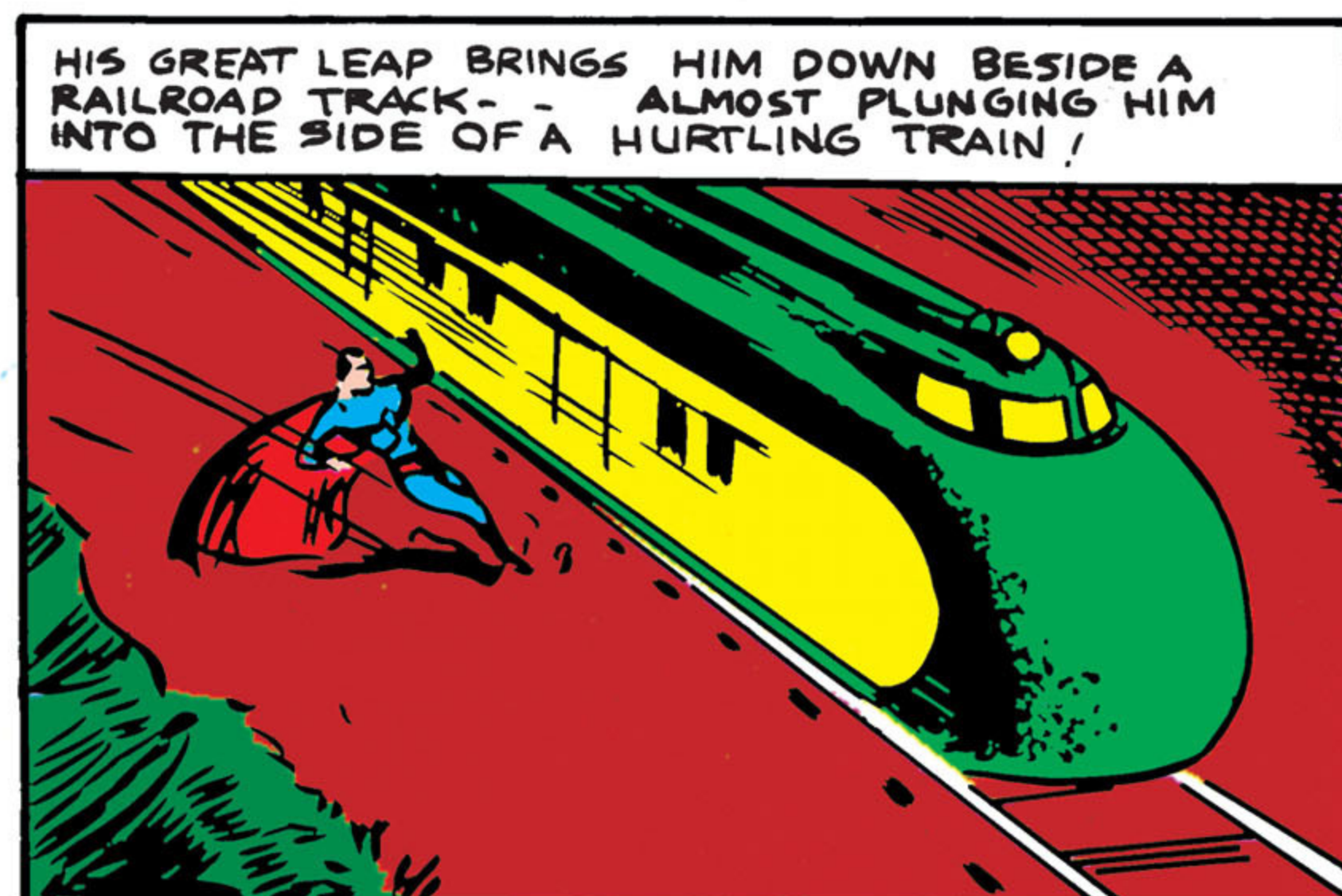
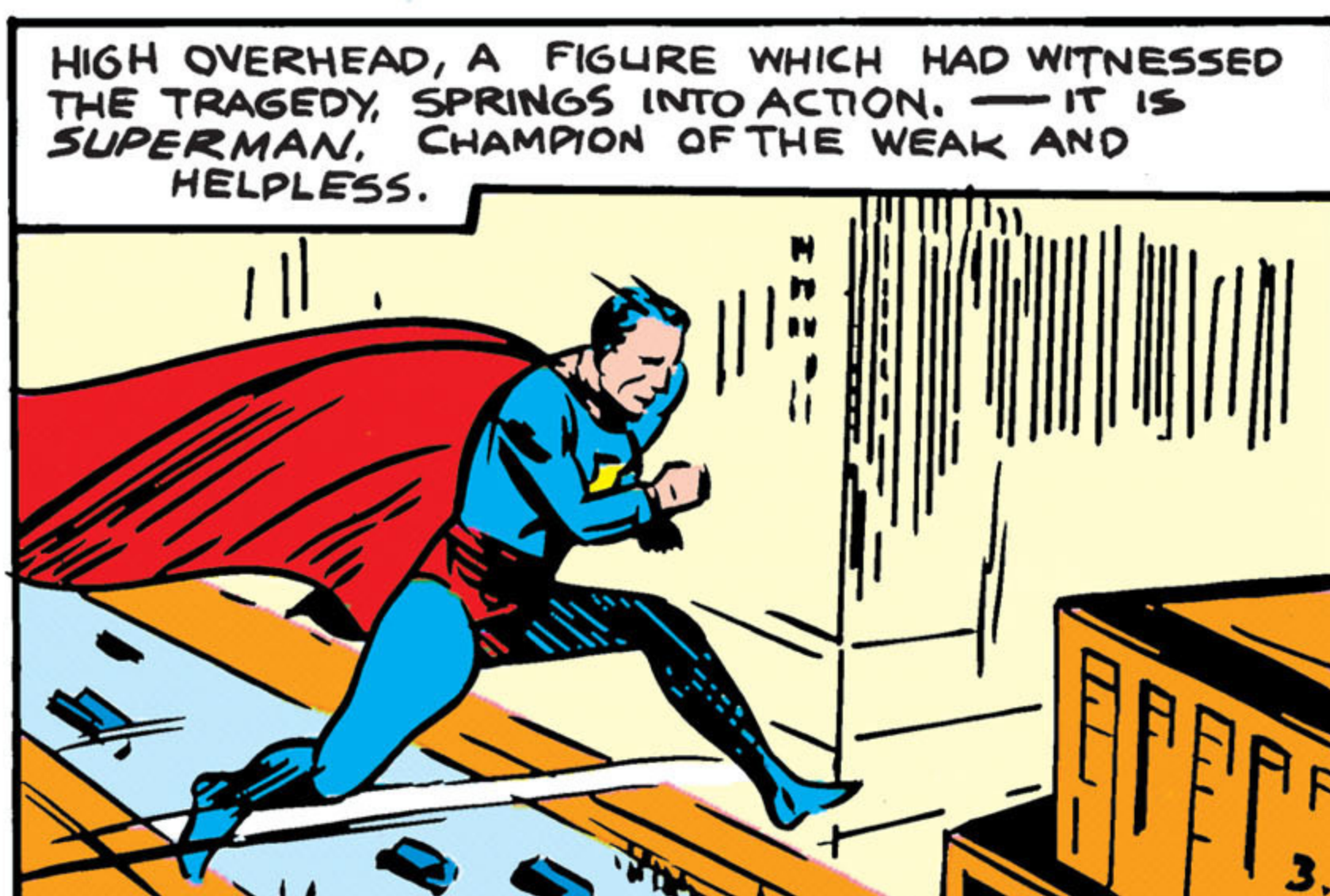
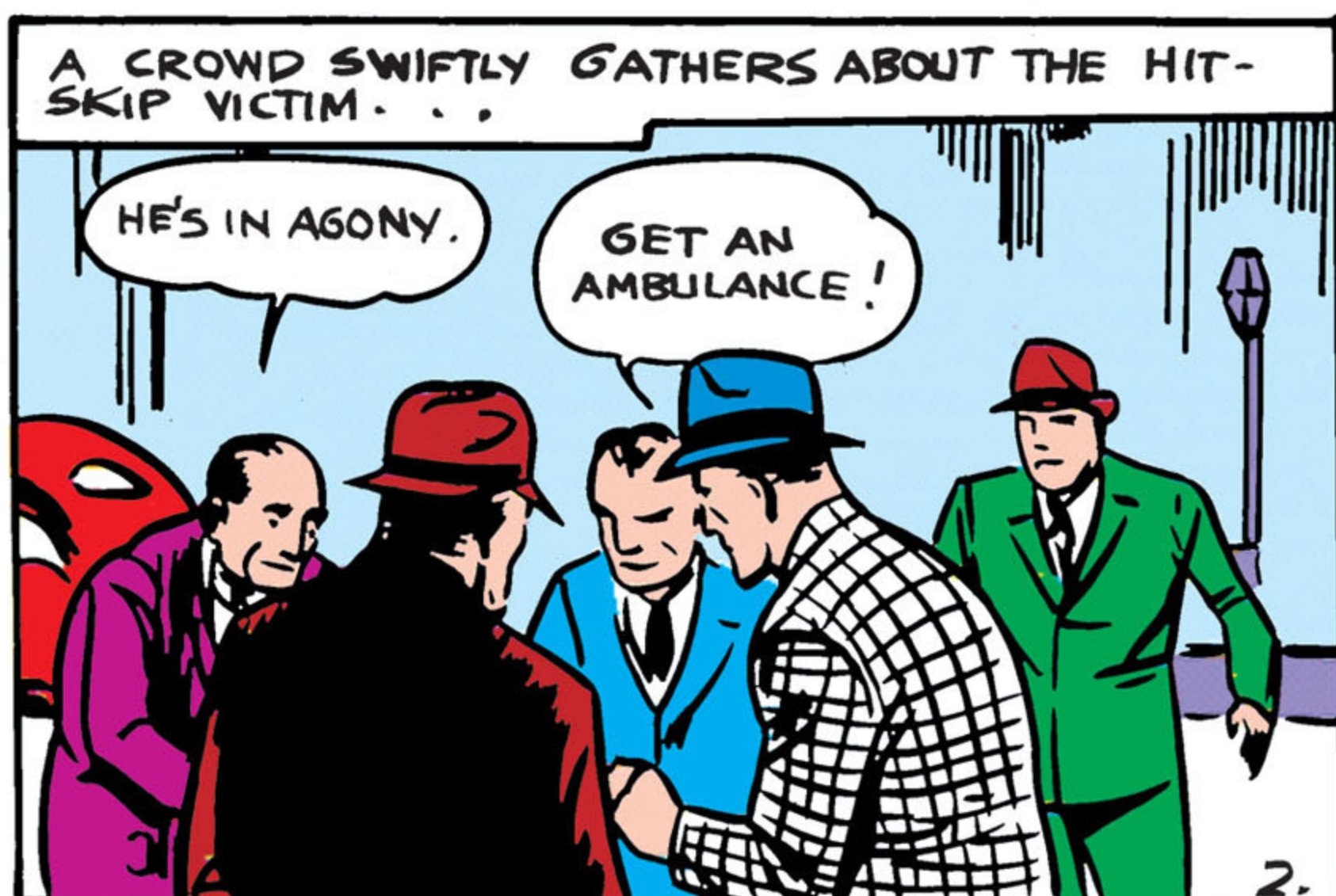
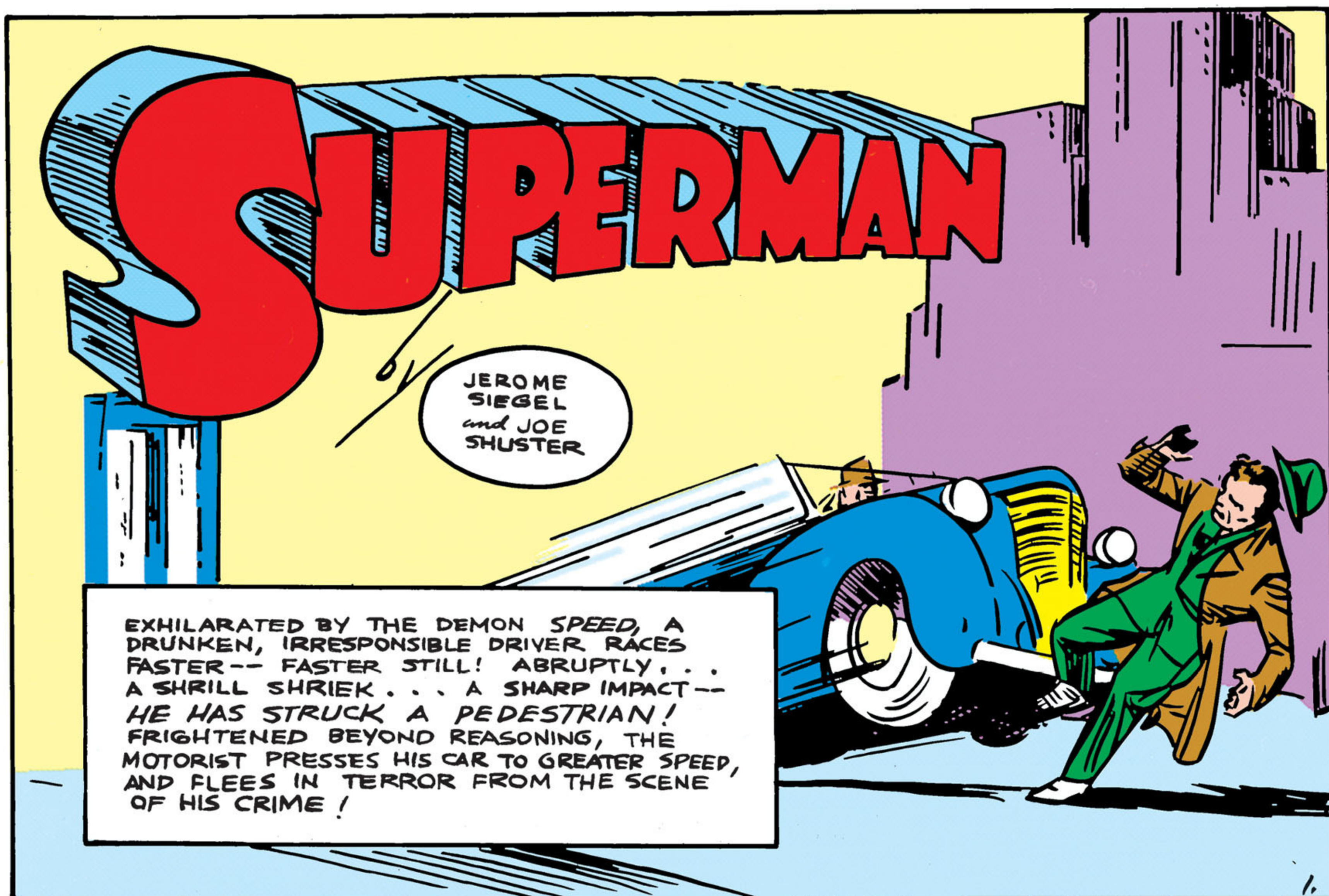


No. 4

SEPTEMBER, 1938

ACTION COMICS





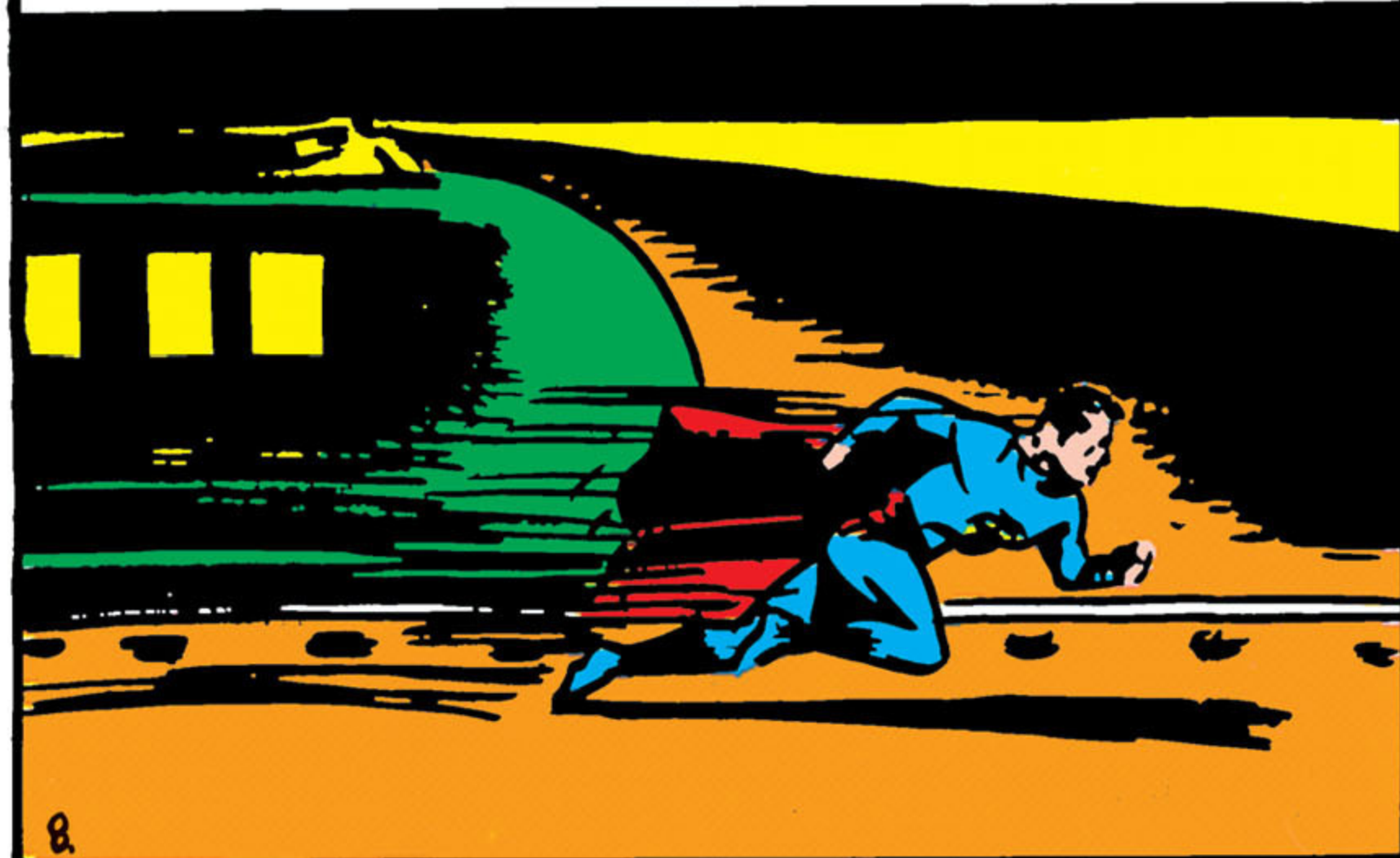
WITHIN THE ENGINE-CAR . . .



GLANCING OUTWARD, THE ENGINEER DOUBTS HIS SENSES, AS HE SEES A FIGURE NOT ONLY RACING THE TRAIN. . .



. . . BUT PASSING IT!



MIKE! — A MAN
RACING US — RUNNING
FASTER THAN TH'
TRAIN — I SAW IT
WITH MY OWN EYES!

DRINKIN'
AGAIN, EH?



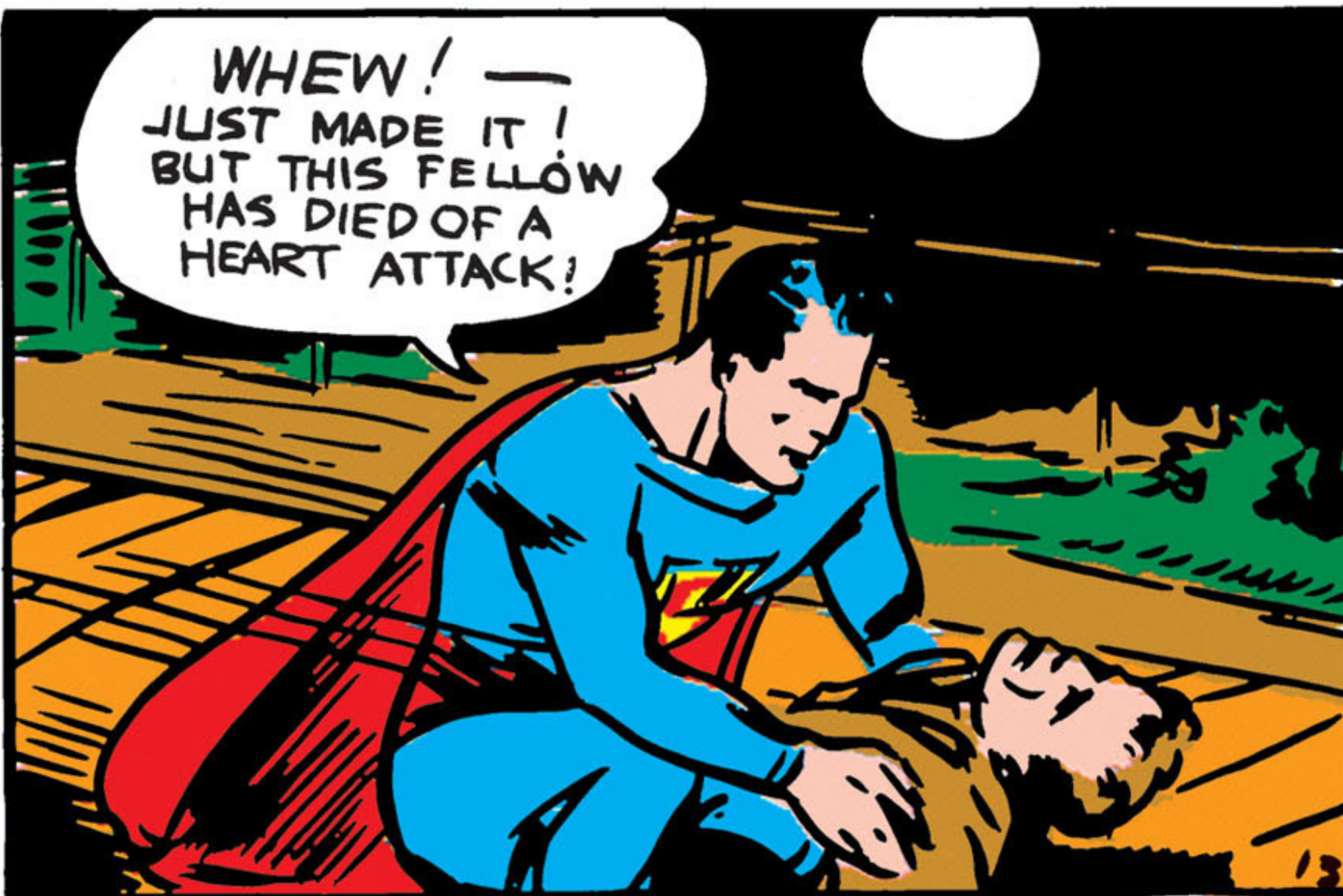
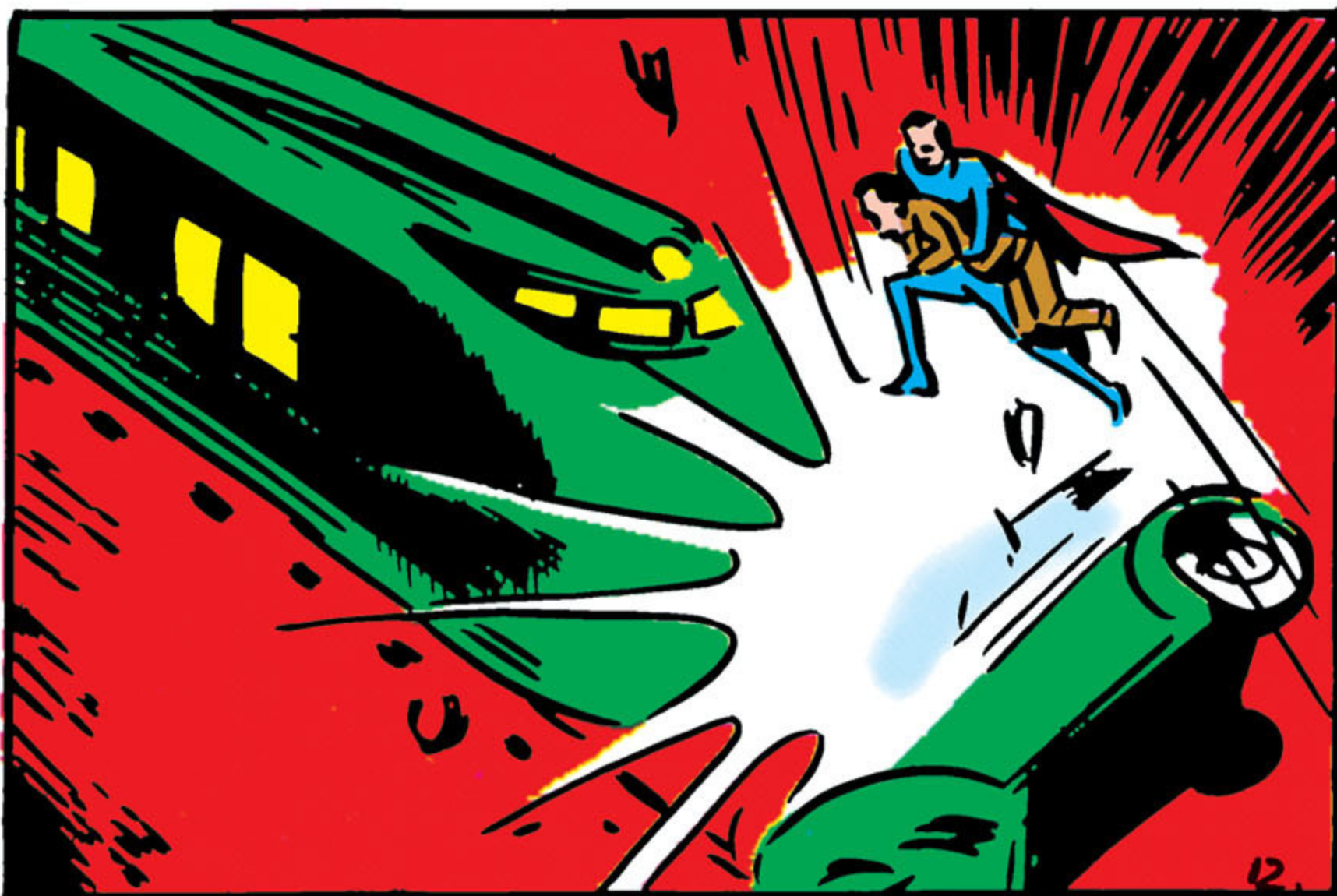
SUPERMAN BEATS THE TRAIN TO THE STALLED AUTO . . .



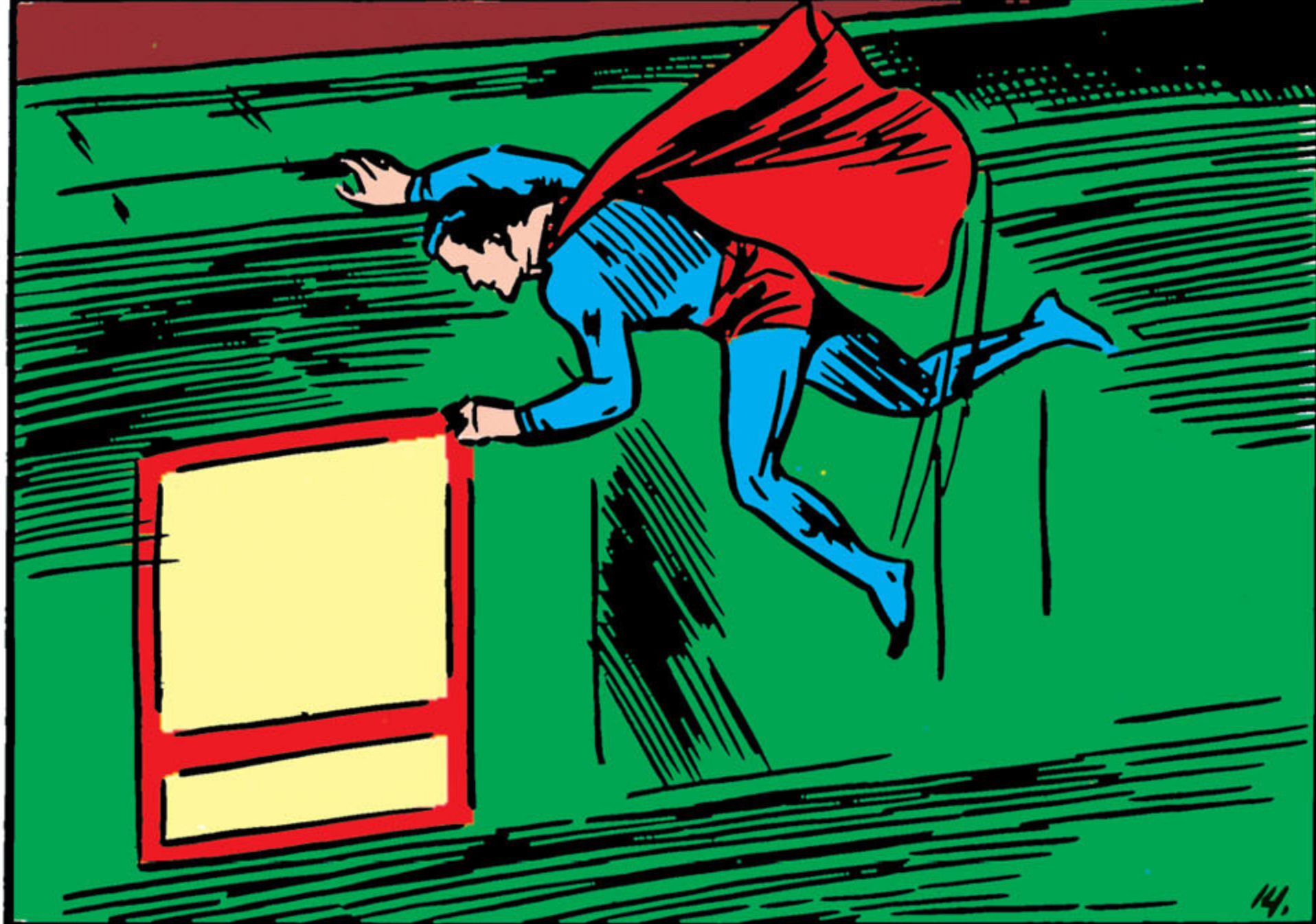
YOU FOOL!
YOU'LL KILL
US BOTH!



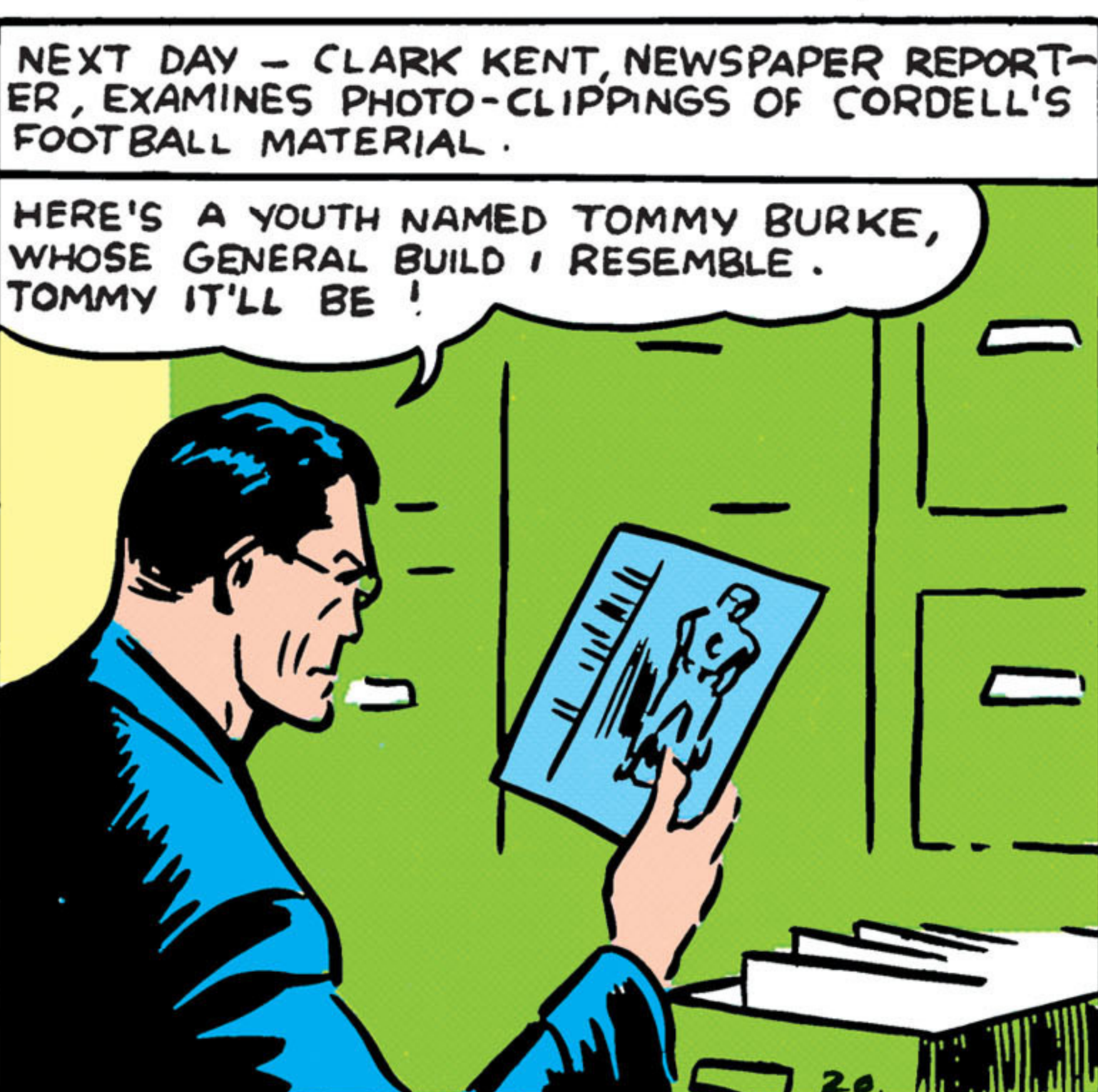
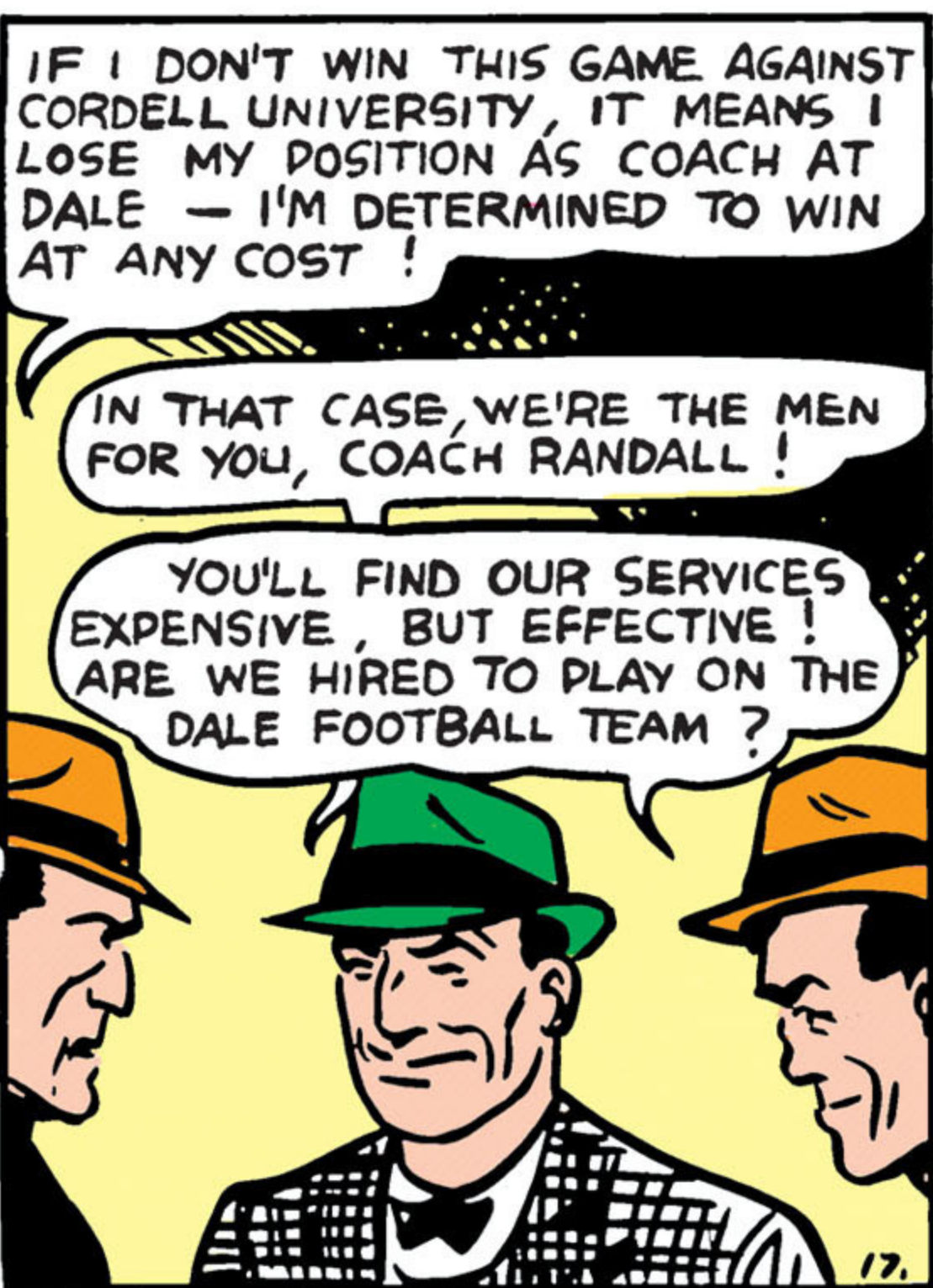
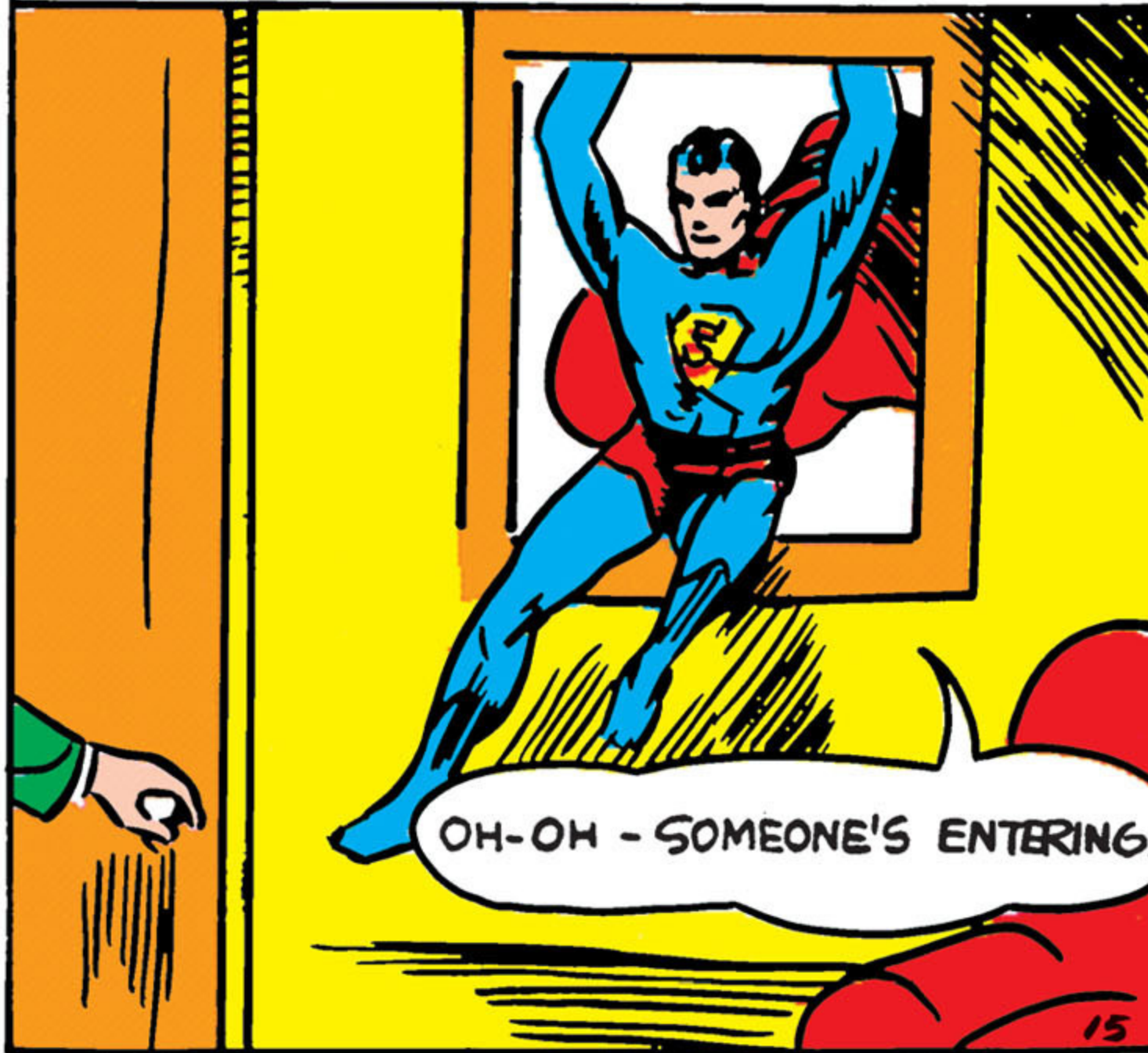
WHEW! —
JUST MADE IT!
BUT THIS FELLOW
HAS DIED OF A
HEART ATTACK!



SEIZING THE EDGE OF A WINDOW, SUPERMAN SWINGS DOWNWARD . . .



...INTO A PRIVATE ROOM IN THE PULL-MAN CAR.



THAT EVENING, TOMMY BURKE RECEIVES AN ULTIMATUM FROM HIS GIRL FRIEND, MARY.

YOU MEAN — YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO TH' MOVIES WITH ME ?

NOW, OR EVER !

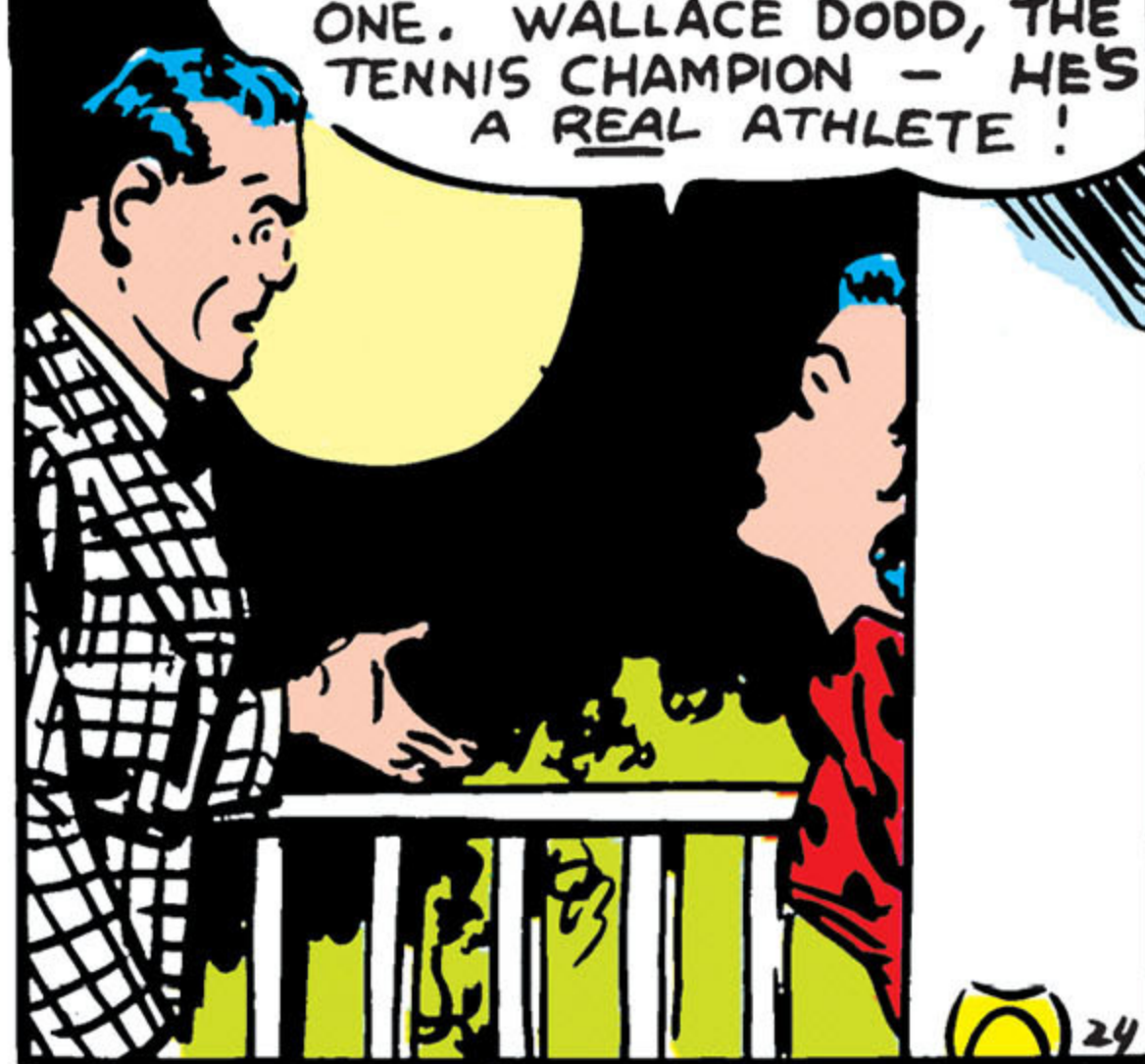


I'M ASHAMED OF YOU, TOMMY BURKE ! YOU TOLD ME YOU'D BE A FOOTBALL HERO, BUT IN THE SIX OR SEVEN YEARS YOU'VE BEEN A SUBSTITUTE, YOU'VE NEVER GOTTEN INTO EVEN ONE GAME !



I S'POSE YOU'LL BE LOOKIN' FOR A NEW BOY-FRIEND NOW.

WRONG ! — I'VE ALREADY GOT ONE. WALLACE DODD, THE TENNIS CHAMPION — HE'S A REAL ATHLETE !



LATER — AS BURKE DESPONDENTLY WALKS HOMEWARD, HE IS TOTALLY UNAWARE THAT HE'S BEING TRAILED !

I'LL SHOW HER ! — I'LL MAKE THE TEAM ! I'LL BE FAMOUS ! AN' THEN, I WON'T EVEN LOOK AT HER !



DON'T MOVE !

WHAT IS THIS ? A HOLD-UP ?



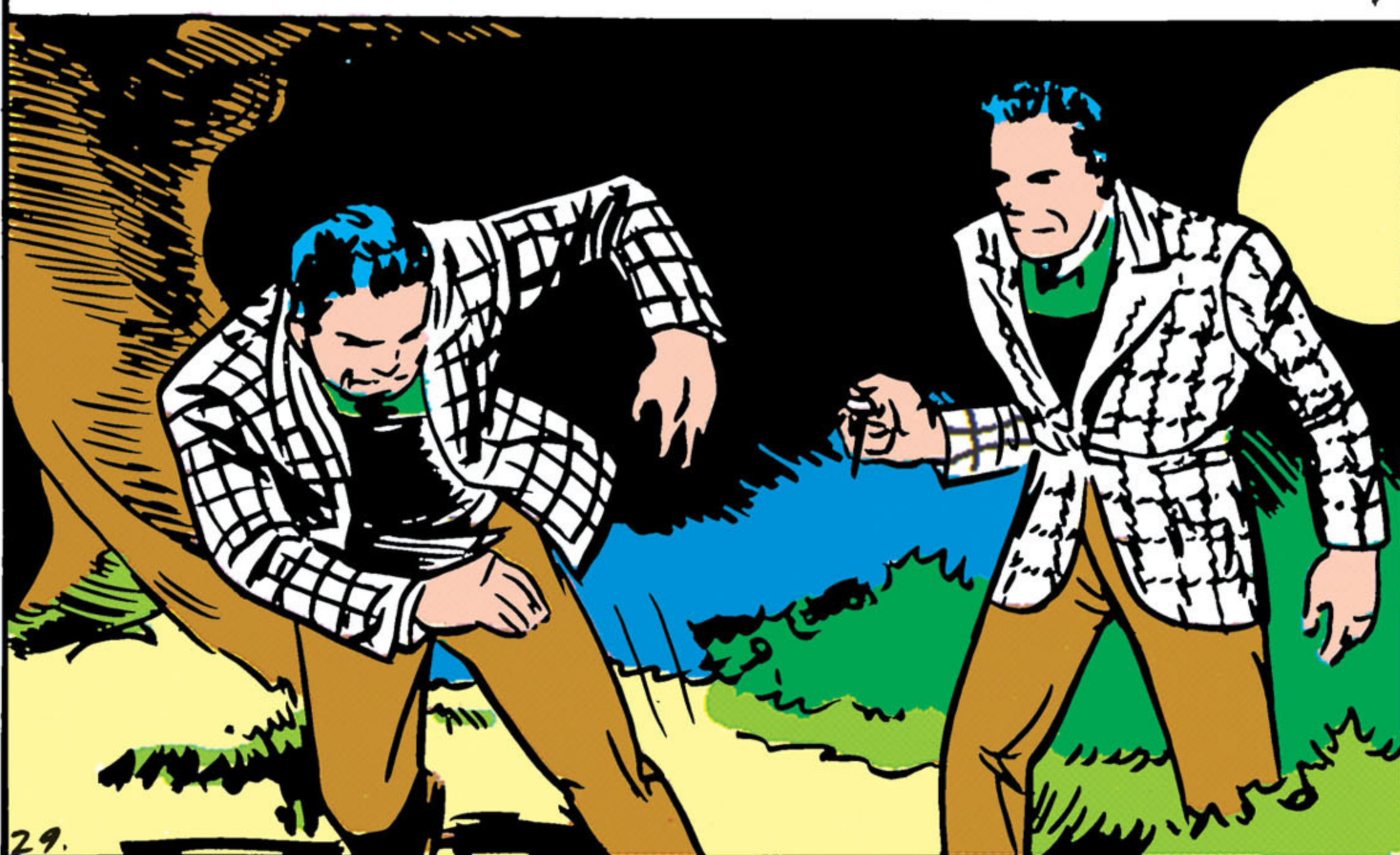
G-GOOD LORD ! — YOU'RE ME !



YOU'RE MISTAKEN — YOU'RE NOT LOOKING AT TOMMY BURKE, SUBSTITUTE, BUT AT TOMMY BURKE, THE GREATEST FOOTBALL PLAYER OF ALL TIME !



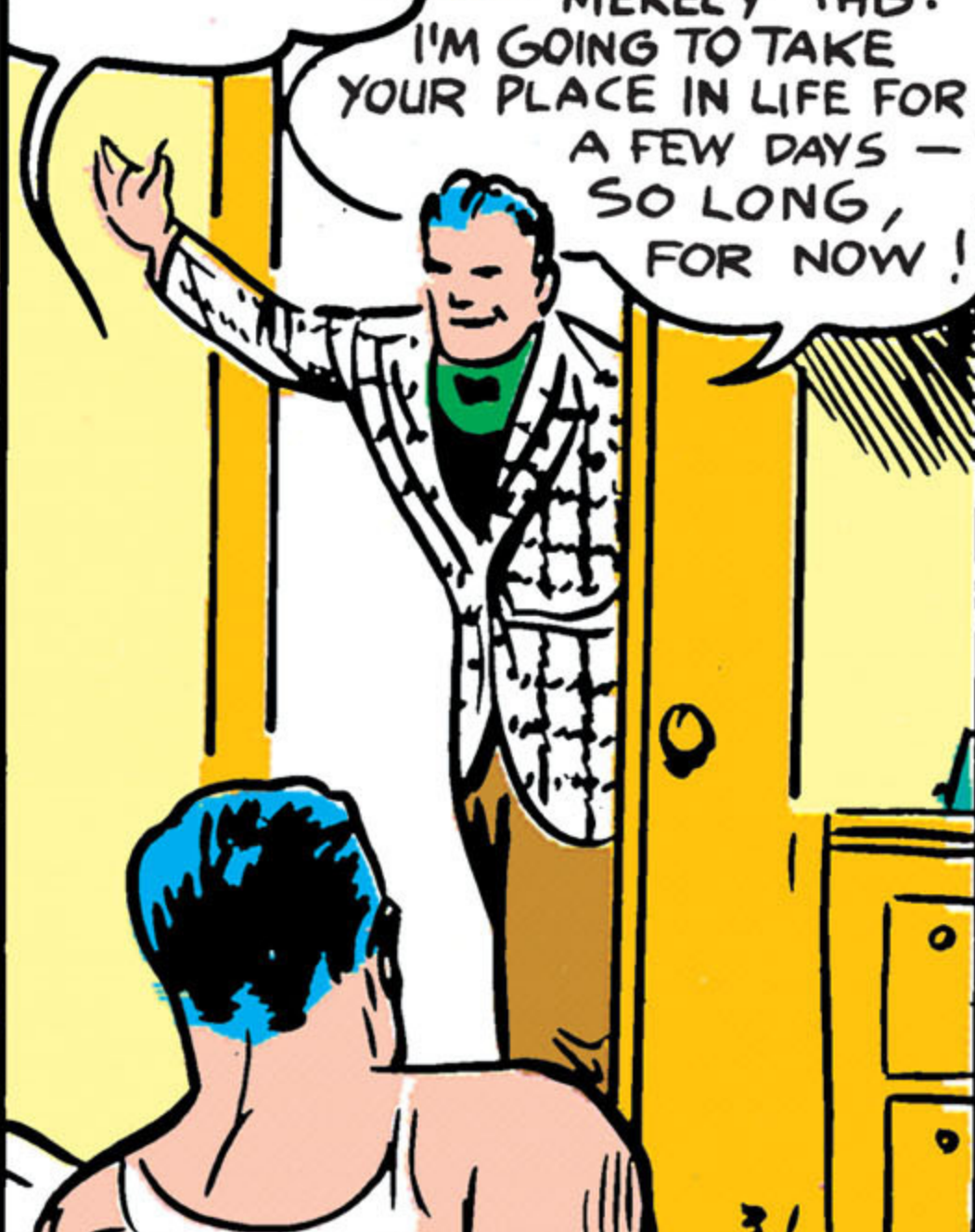
BURKE LURCHES FORWARD TO ATTACK — INSTANTLY HE FEELS THE STING OF A HYPODERMIC-NEEDLE — HE LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS !



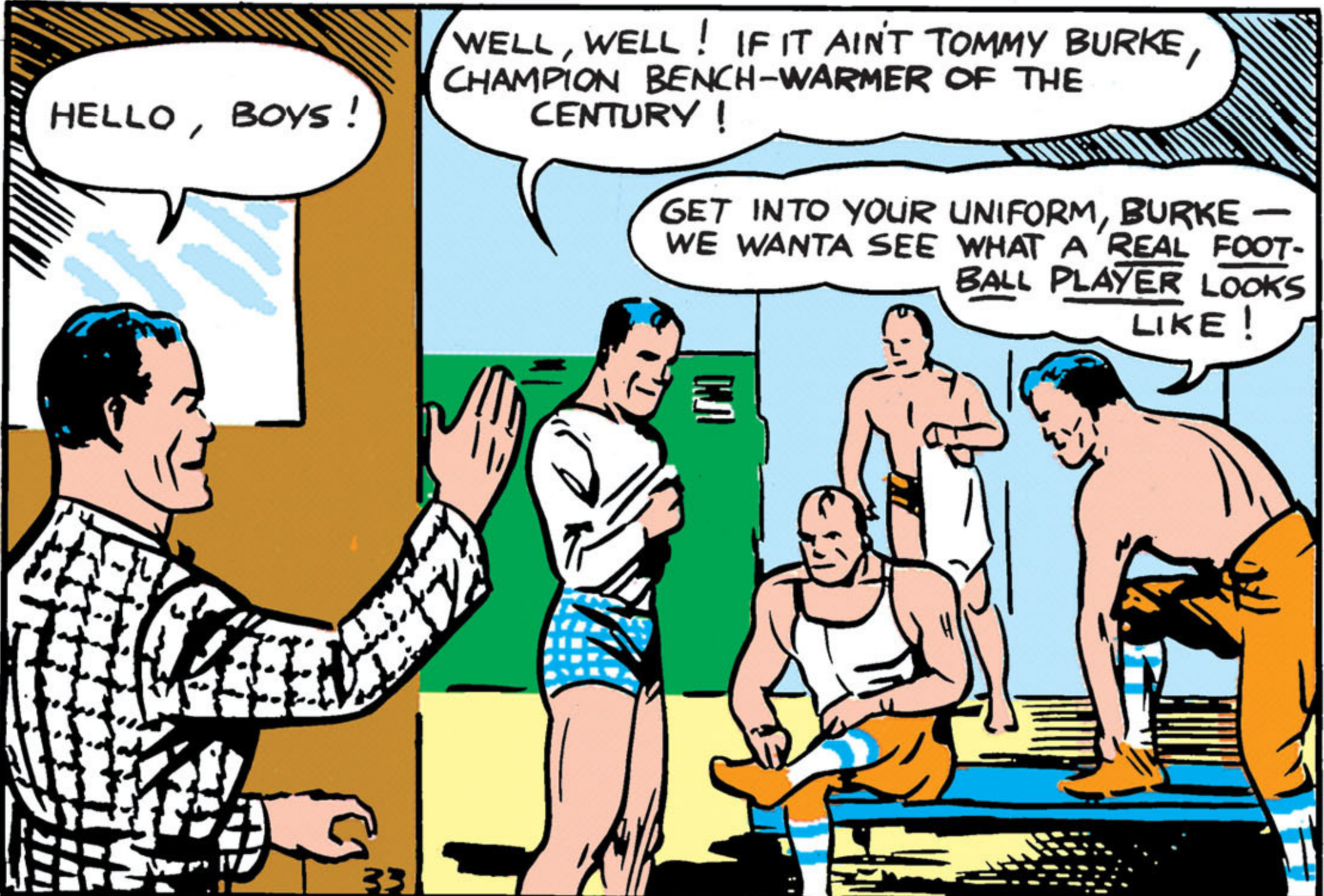
BURKE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS TO DISCOVER HIMSELF A PRISONER IN HIS OWN APARTMENT.

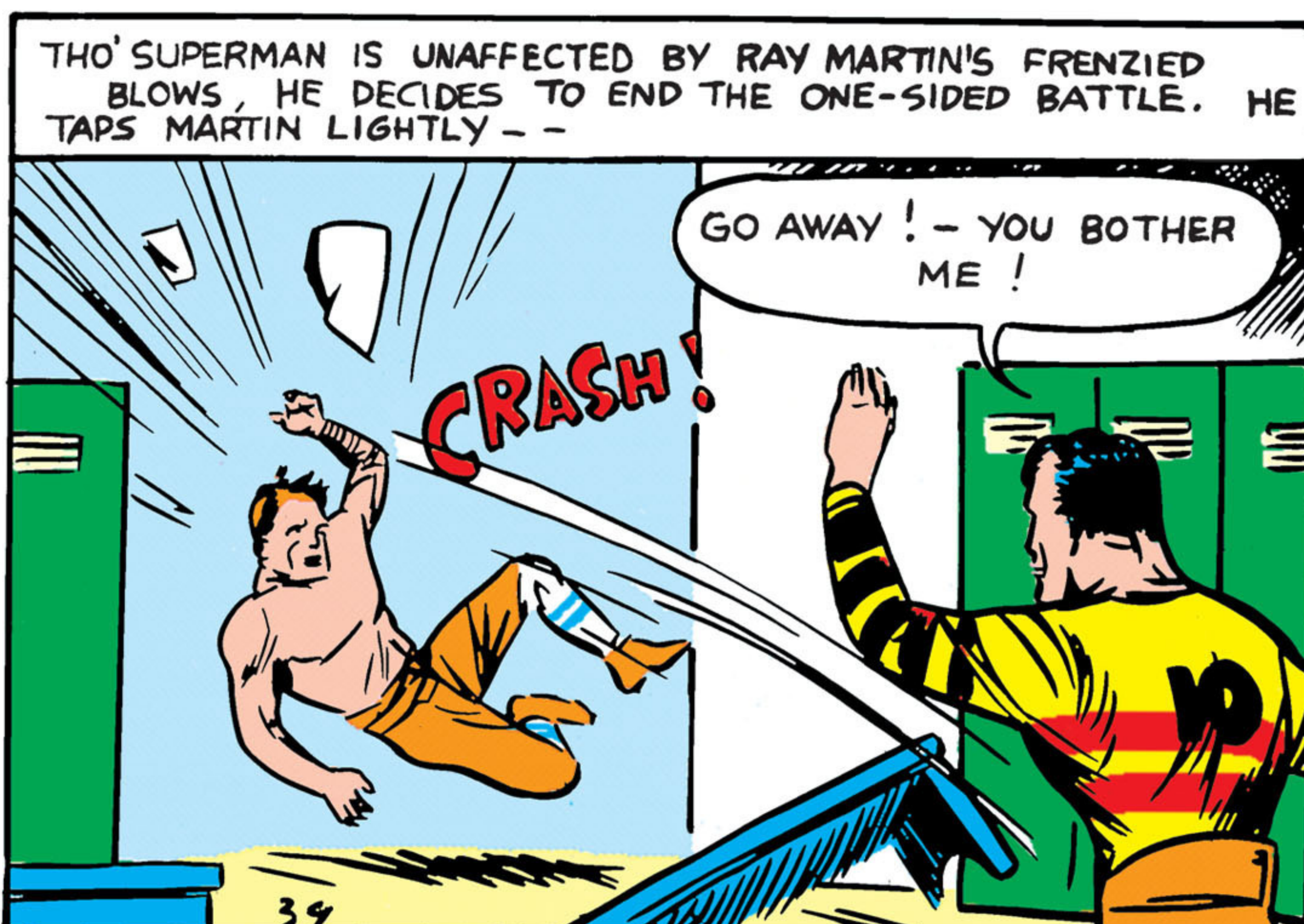


BUT WHAT'S TH' BIG IDEA ?



DISGUISED AS BURKE, SUPERMAN REPORTS TO THE LOCKER-ROOM OF CORDELL UNIVERSITY, PREPARATORY TO FOOTBALL PRACTICE.





WITHIN THE LOCKER-ROOM.

FINE PROGRESS, I MUST SAY! FIRST I GET IN A FIGHT, THEN GET KICKED OFF THE BENCH! — WHAT A DIRTY TRICK TO PULL ON BURKE!

46

ORDERS OR NO ORDERS, I'M GOING OUT ON THAT FIELD AND SHOW COACH STANLEY A THING OR TWO!

47

LOOK! THERE'S BURKE! — HE'S COME OUT ON THE FIELD!

OH-OH! — WAIT'LL COACH SEES HIM!

48

DOWNWARD SOARS A FOOT-BALL TOWARD AN OPEN SPACE IN THE FIELD...

49

ABRUPTLY A FIGURE DASHES OUT AND SNAGS IT!

50

BURKE!

I THOUGHT I'D TOLD THAT — —!

51

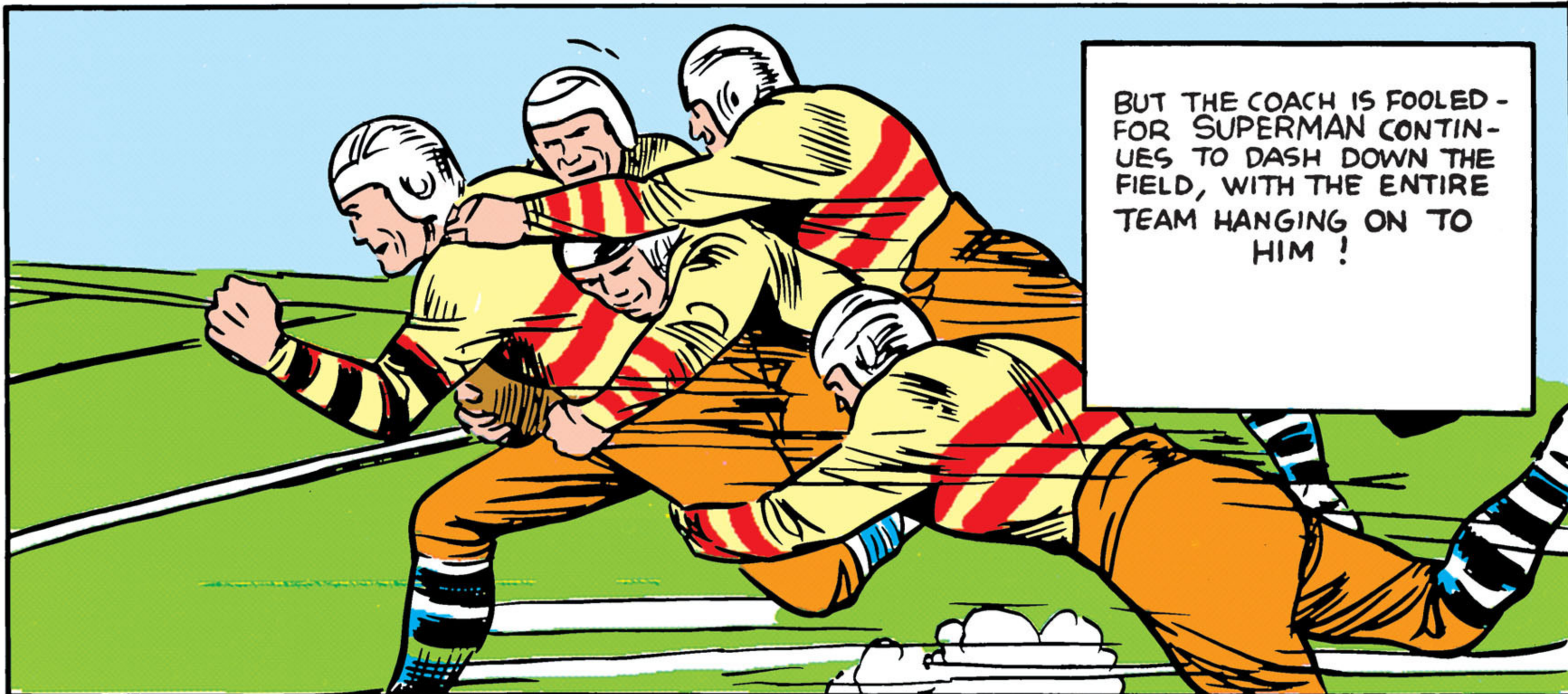
GRAB THAT MAN! GIVE HIM TH' "BUMS RUSH"! — THROW HIM OUT TH' FIELD ON HIS EAR!

52

STARTING FROM A GOAL POST, SUPERMAN LEISURELY TROTS FORWARD, AS EVERY PLAYER ON THE FIELD CONVERGES UPON HIM!

COME ON! THE MORE THE MERRIER!

53



JUST BEFORE SUPERMAN REACHES THE GOAL-POST, HE SHAKES OFF THE PLAYERS --- THEN CROSSES THE LINE .

AND THAT -- IS THAT !

TOUCHDOWN !

COACH

BURKE, HAVE YOU BEEN HOLDING OUT ON ME ?

WHAT'S COME OVER BURKE?
BOY! WHATTA RUN !

AND TO THINK I LET THIS GUY SIT ON THE BENCH FOR SIX ENTIRE SEASONS !

BUT HE CAN BE IN OUR LAST GAME -- THE ONE AGAINST DALE, WHICH WILL DECIDE THE CHAMPIONSHIP !

THIS THE SPORTS EDITOR OF THE "NEWS"? -- LISTEN ! I'VE A PLAYER NAMED TOMMY BURKE WHO'S A MARVEL, A SENSATION ! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT !

BURKE ? -- DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH ! -- IT'S NO SECRET HE'S THE JOKE OF THE CORDELL TEAM -- WHAT IS THIS ? A GAG ?

IN BURKE'S APARTMENT --

WHAT'S SO FUNNY ?

THIS ARTICLE ABOUT YOU -- SATIRICAL BUT STILL, GOOD PUBLICITY !

AT DALE UNIVERSITY --

THIS ARTICLE PLAYS UP BURKE AS A CLOWN. BUT JUST THE SAME, I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA IF CORDELL'S STAR PLAYER DISAPPEARED.

UNTIL THE GAME WAS OVER EH, BOSS ?

WE GET YOU !

DURING THE FOLLOWING DAYS, THE CORDELL TEAM PRACTICES STEADILY FOR THE BIG GAME.

I STILL DON'T GET IT! -HOW IN THE WORLD CAN A PLAYER BECOME SO GOOD OVERNIGHT?

IF YOU KNEW, YOU'D BE THE GREATEST COACH IN THE WORLD!



TOMORROW'S THE GAME WITH DALE! NOW REMEMBER -- EARLY TO BED, NO SMOKING, NO DRINKING! - PLEASANT DREAMS!



THAT EVENING --

BURKE IS ASLEEP IN THAT APARTMENT, - YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.



LATER --

HE'S COMPLETELY TIED!

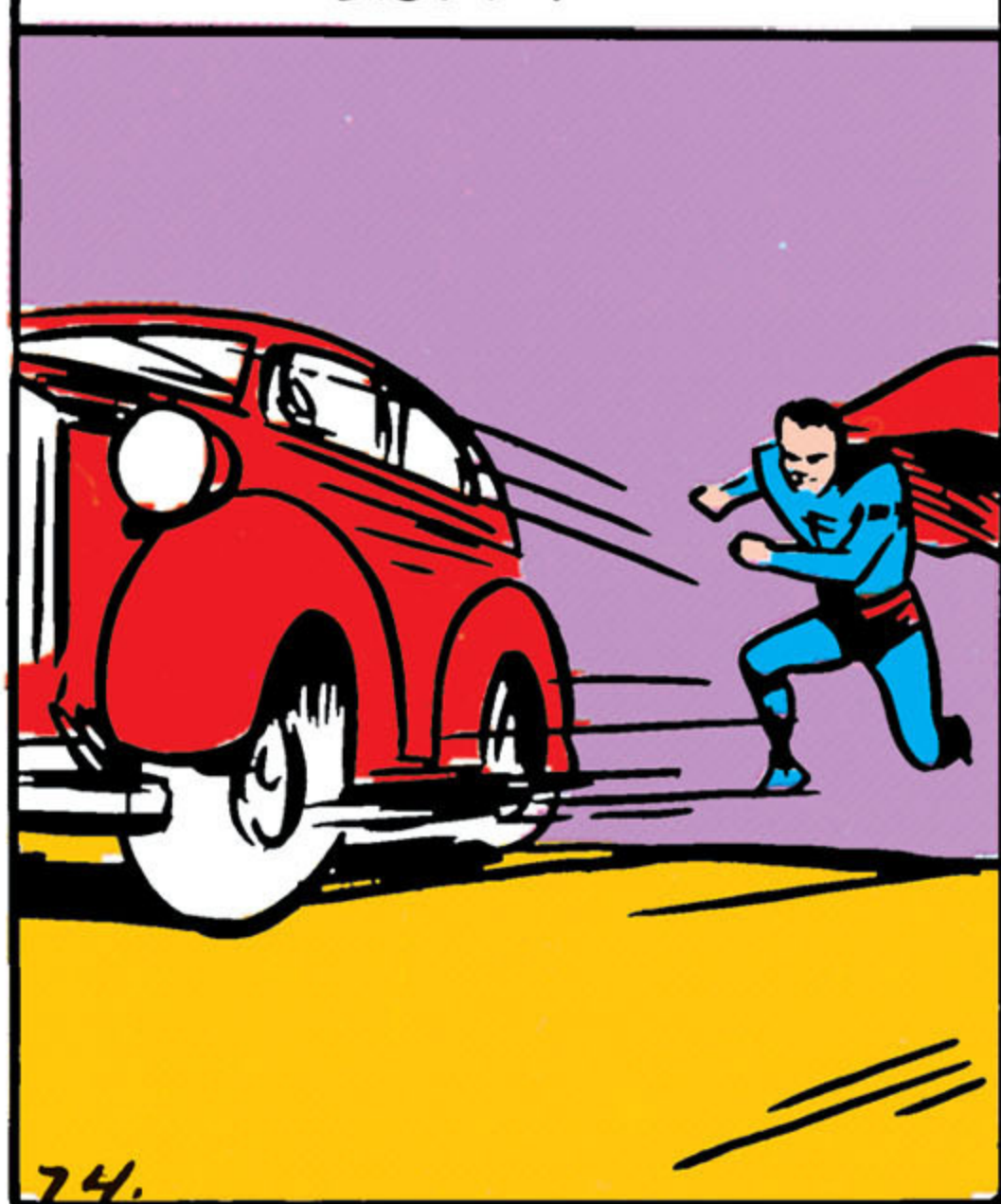
STRANGE HE DIDN'T STRUGGLE AT ALL!



THE TWO THUGS ARE UNAWARE BURKE IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A SLEEP-INDUCING DRUG OR THAT SUPERMAN IS OBSERVING THEM FROM THE MOLDING OVERHEAD!



WHEN THE KIDNAPPERS DRIVE OFF, SUPERMAN RACES IN PURSUIT, EASILY KEEPING THEIR AUTO IN SIGHT!



BURKE IS BROUGHT INTO A DESERTED HOUSE!

W-WHERE AM I?

WHERE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET INTO TOMORROW'S GAME.

BUT YOU DON'T WANT ME - I'M JUST A SUBSTITUTE AND BESIDES--



ARE YOU TOMMY BURKE?

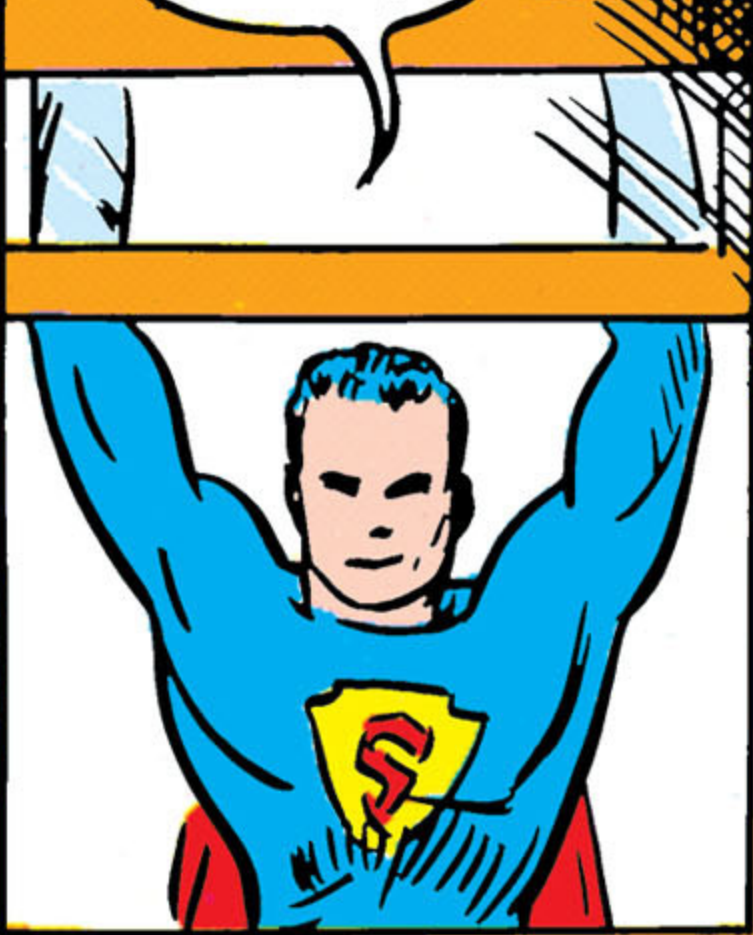
YES, BUT IT ISN'T ME WHO--

THAT'S ALL WE WANTA KNOW - THIS GAG'LL QUIET YOU DOWN.



SUPERMAN, WHO HAS BEEN OBSERVING THE SCENE THRU A WINDOW, GRINS.

FINE! THEY'VE TAKEN HIM OFF MY HANDS - AND THEY MEAN HIM NO PHYSICAL HARM!



77

NEXT MORNING, HUGE THROGS CROWD INTO THE STADIUM, LITTLE REALIZING THEY ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE MOST AMAZING FOOTBALL GAME OF ALL TIME.



COACH RANDALL DROPPING IN ON COACH STANLEY TO GLOAT OVER BURKE'S DISAPPEARANCE, RECEIVES AN UNEXPECTED SURPRISE!

RANDALL, MEET THE BOY WHO'S GOING TO TAKE THE GAME AWAY FROM YOU -- TOMMY BURKE.

BURKE! - BUT I THOUGHT - I -



WHEN SUPERMAN AND RANDALL ARE ALONE.

I KNOW ALL THE DIRTY WORK YOU'VE BEEN PULLING! IF YOU DON'T KICK THOSE THUGS OFF THE DALE TEAM, AND RESIGN YOUR POSITION AS COACH, I'LL EXPOSE YOU AFTER THE GAME!

I - I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



LATER - IN THE DALE LOCKER-ROOM.

YOU FUMBLING IDIOTS! - BURKE ESCAPED! NOW HE'S GOING TO EXPOSE US ALL AT THE GAME'S CONCLUSION!

OH NO HE WON'T!

THE KNIFE, EH?



SPECTATORS CHEER AS OPPOSING TEAMS DASH ONTO THE FIELD.

THERE HE IS!

WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL -- THE KNIFE!

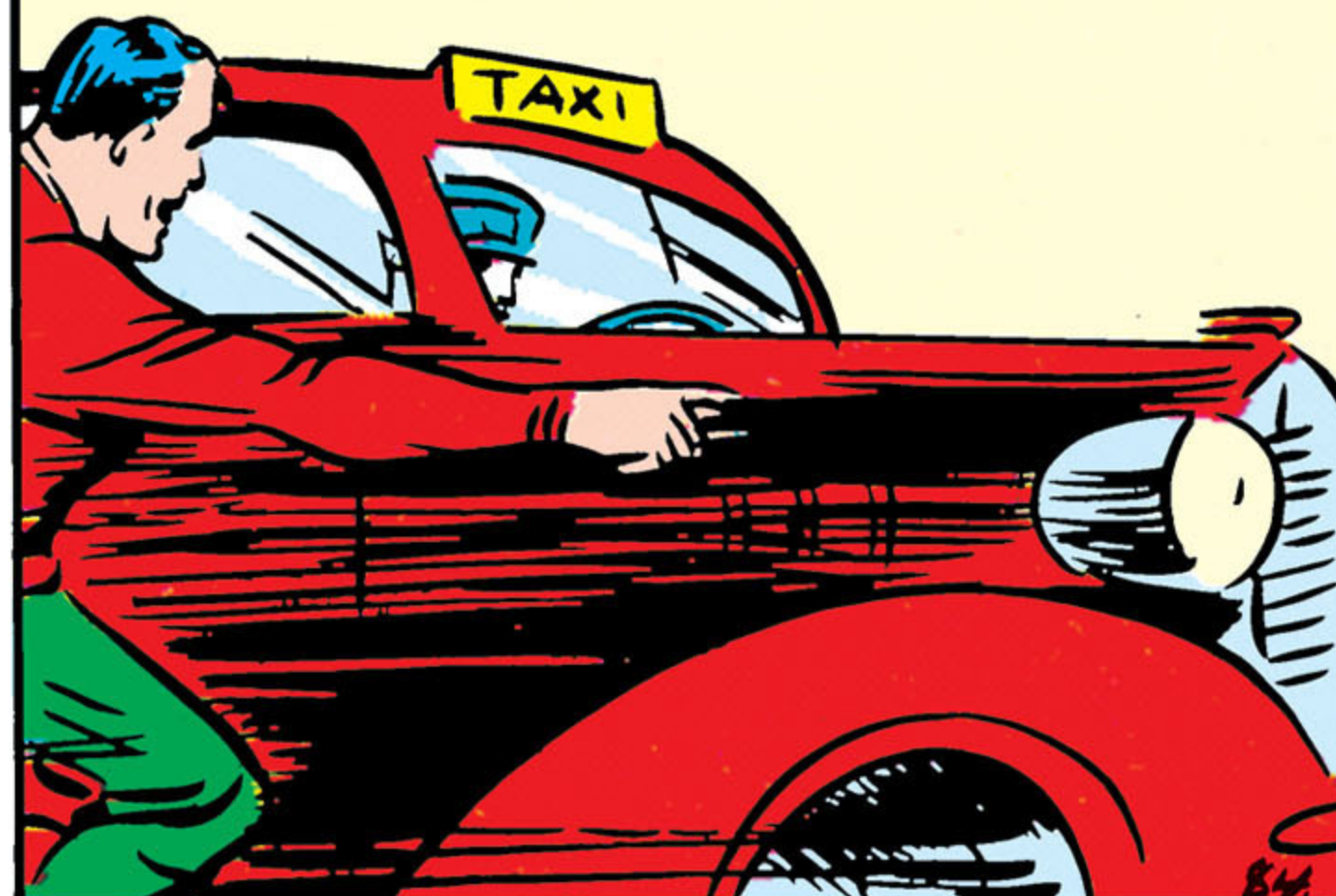


THE STARTING GUN BARKS, - DALE KICKS OFF - SUPERMAN RECEIVES AND IS OFF LIKE A SHOT!



BACK IN THE DESERTED HOUSE, BURKE HAS STRUGGLED FREE OF HIS BONDS. HE DARTS INTO THE STREET!

TAXI! TO THE FOOTBALL FIELD! AND STEP ON IT!



83

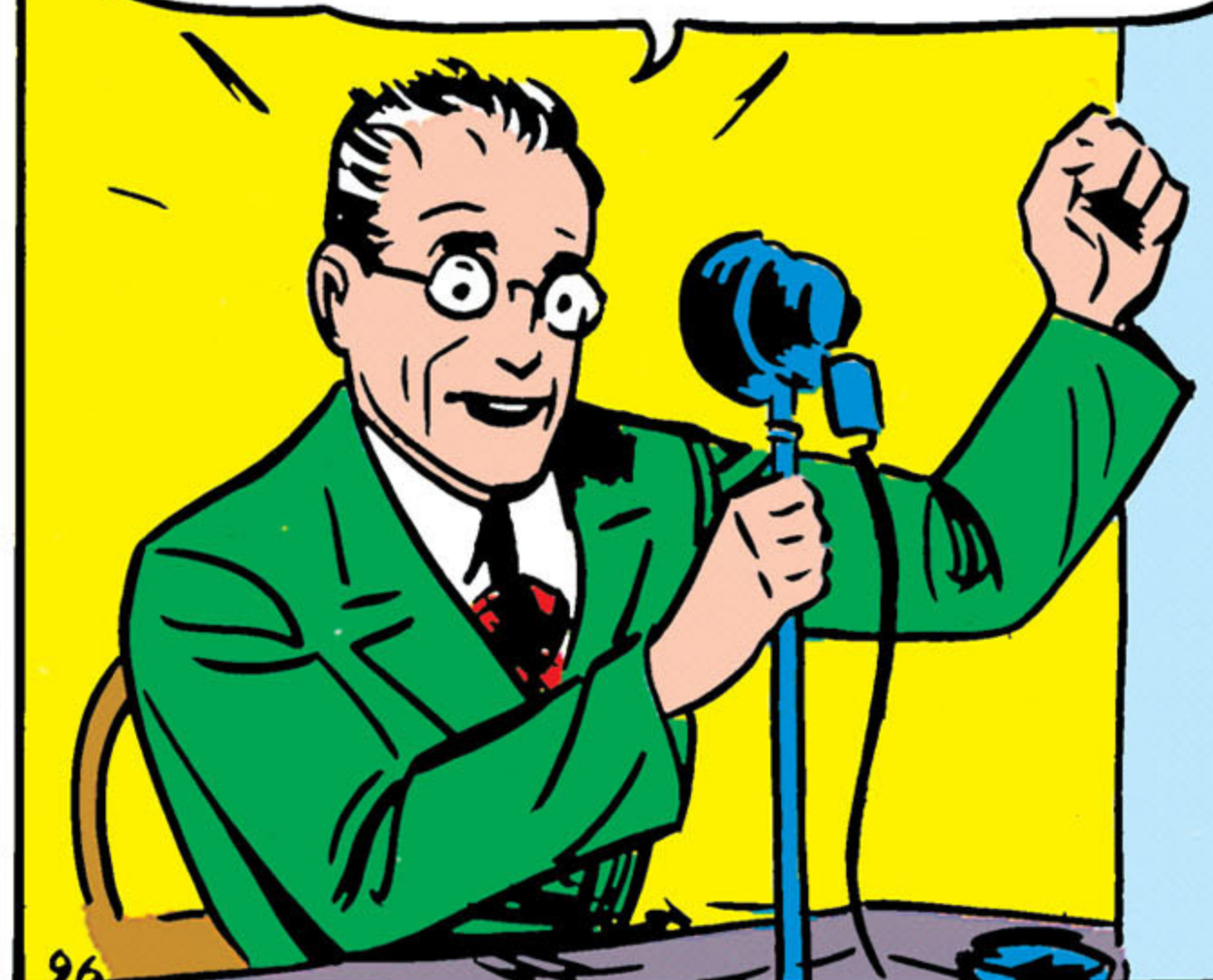
84

DOWN THE FIELD STREAKS SUPERMAN -- BOWLING OPPOSITION ASIDE LIKE NINE-PINS -- AND SCORES A TOUCHDOWN! THE CROWD GOES WILD!



SUPERMAN ACCEPTS THE NEXT KICK-OFF AND RACES FOR ANOTHER TOUCHDOWN!

IT'S INCREDIBLE! - I'VE ACTUALLY SEEN THE SAME MAN SCORE TWO TOUCHDOWNS IN THE SPACE OF A FEW SECONDS!



BUT SUPERMAN'S TEAM-MATES ARE FAR FROM DELIGHTED.

WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, THE WHOLE TEAM?

WHEN DO WE DO SOMETHING?

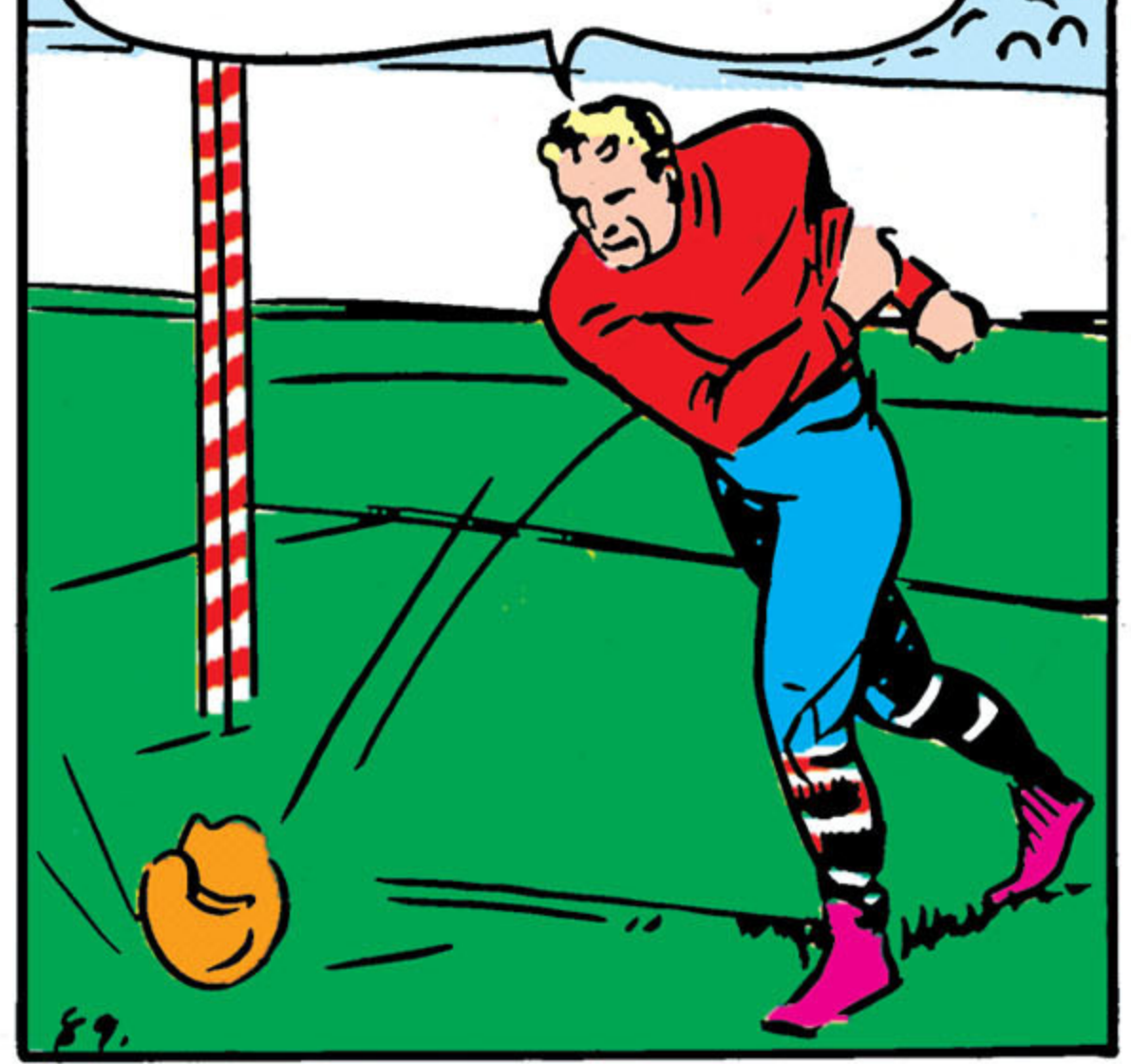


WHEN RAY MARTIN SECURES THE NEXT KICK-OFF SUPERMAN CLEARS THE WAY FOR HIM.



ANOTHER TOUCHDOWN!

BAH! WITH HIS RUNNING INTERFERENCE, A TWO YEAR OLD CHILD COULD HAVE CARRIED THE BALL OVER THE GOAL!



DENIED ADMITTANCE AT THE PLAYER'S GATE, THE REAL BURKE ENTERS THE BLEACHERS, AND WITH ASTONISHMENT VIEWS A COUNTERPART OF HIMSELF ON THE FIELD SCORING GOAL AFTER GOAL!

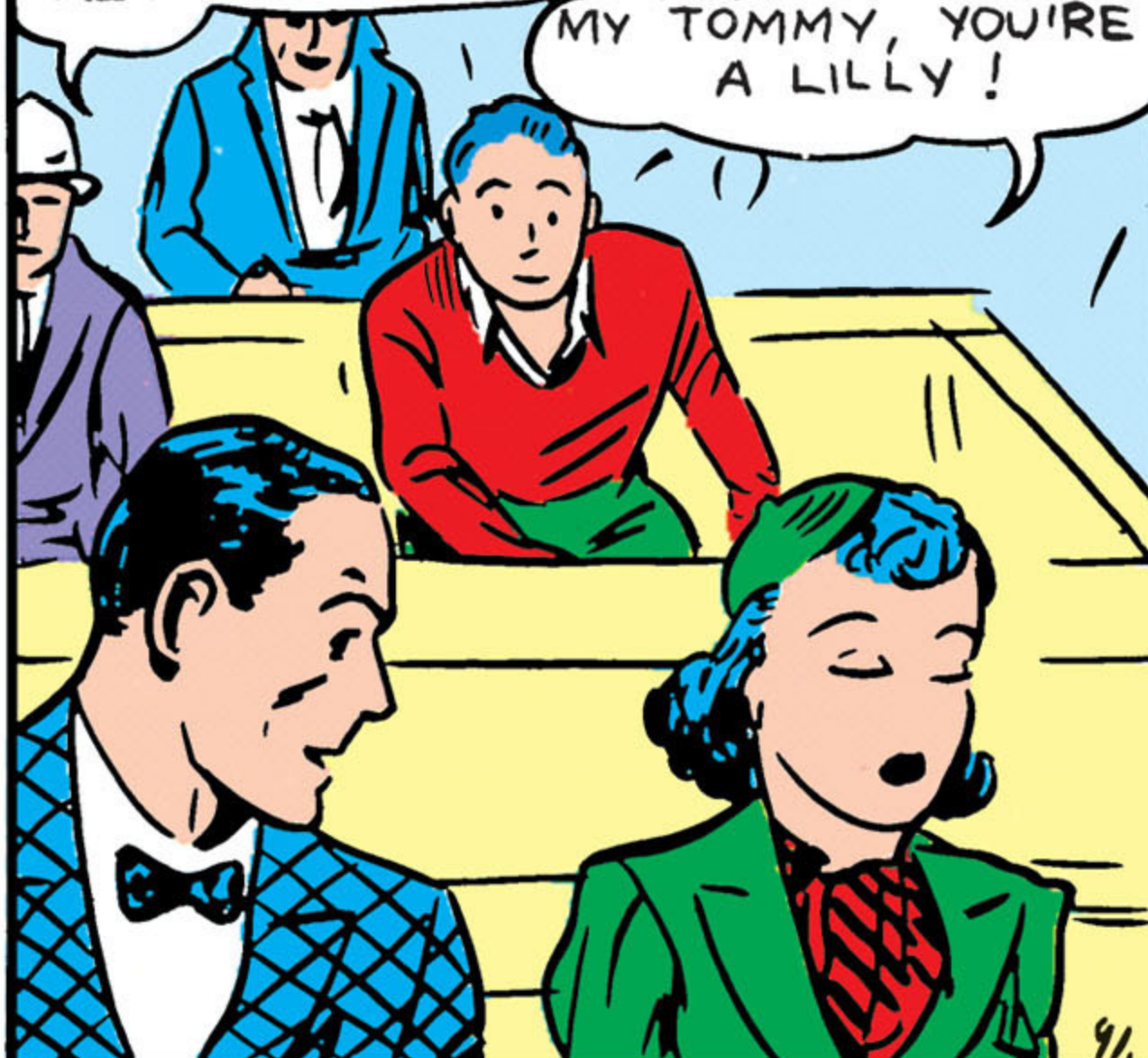
HE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS! I'LL CALL A COP!



BUT AT THAT INSTANT HE HEARS HIS EX-GIRL FRIEND'S VOICE.

I WISH YOU'D PAY MORE ATTENTION TO ME.

YOU MAY BE A TENNIS CHAMP, BUT COMPARED TO MY TOMMY, YOU'RE A LILLY!



REALIZING THAT HE IS NOW IDOLIZED BY THE CROWD, TOMMY CATCHES THEIR ENTHUSIASM.

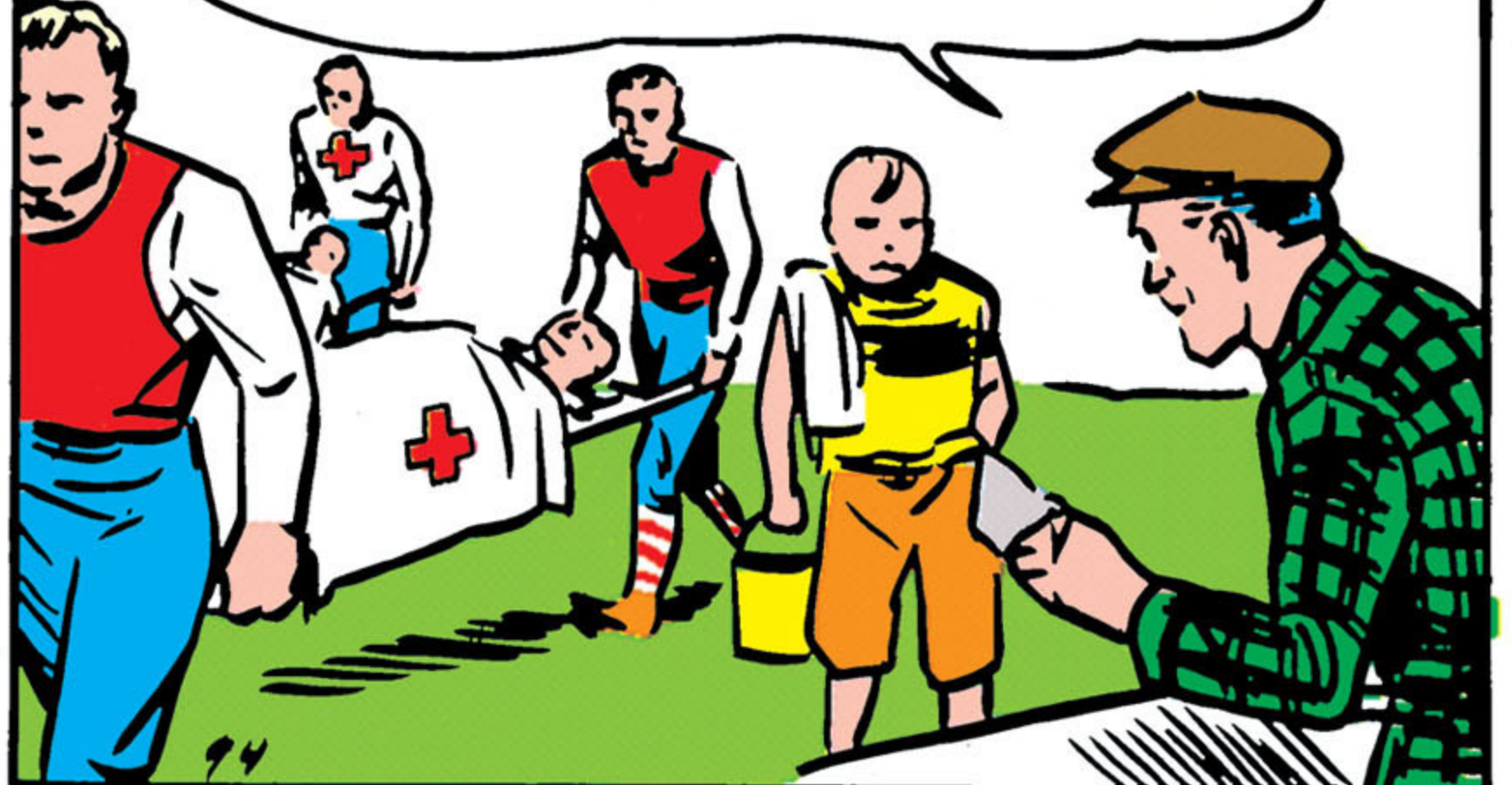
COME ON, BURKE! - HIT THAT LINE! - TEAR 'EM TO PIECES!



ON THE FIELD - AS A POCKET-KNIFE SNAPS UPON SUPERMAN'S TOUGH SKIN, HE ATTENDS TO HIS TWO ATTACKERS.



HERE - TAKE THIS NOTE - MY RESIGNATION - TO DALE UNIVERSITY'S PRESIDENT.



AT THE END OF THE HALF, SUPERMAN MEETS BURKE OUTSIDE THE LOCKER-ROOM.

QUICK! WE'VE GOT TO EXCHANGE CLOTHES!

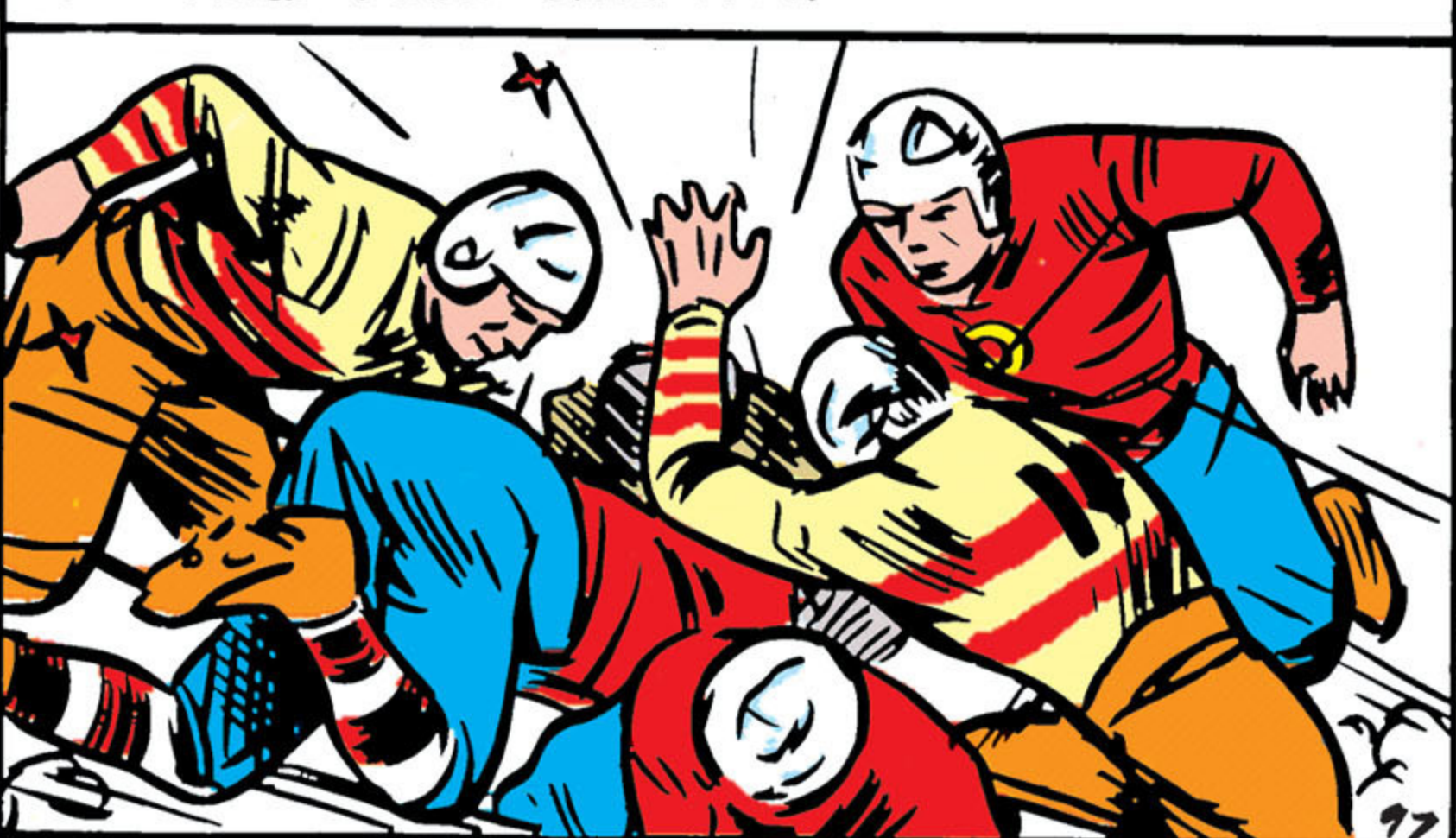
I GET IT! I'M TO CARRY ON, NOW!



AS THE SECOND HALF COMMENCES, THE BALL BOUNCES NEAR BURKE - HE CHASES IT ABOUT - AWKWARDLY - DESPERATELY -



WHEN HE FINALLY SNAGS IT, EVERY PLAYER ON THE FIELD PILES ONTO HIM.



LATER - WHEN HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...

TOMMY, YOU WERE WONDERFUL - SPLENDID! BUT YOU MUST PROMISE YOU'LL GIVE UP FOOT-BALL! IT'S TOO BRUTAL!

GIVE UP FOOT-BALL? YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ASK! BUT FOR YOU, I'LL DO IT!

AND HOW!

THE END



WARNING:

WHEN EXERCISING IT IS ALWAYS WELL TO REMEMBER THAT OVERSTRAIN IS DANGEROUS.

BE MODERATE IN YOUR EXERTIONS!



YOU MAY FIND LIFTING A HEAVY ARM-CHAIR A DIFFICULT TASK.



HOWEVER, IF YOU LIFT SMALLER WEIGHTS REGULARLY...



... AND GRADUALLY INCREASE THE WEIGHT OF THESE OBJECTS...



YOU'LL SOON FIND LIFTING A MERE ARMCHAIR A CINCH!

"ACQUIRING SUPER-STRENGTH"